

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4387

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS LUSAKA 2923

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH

SUBJ: SOUTHERN AFRICA: PRESS HIGHLIGHTS, OCTOBER 29

SUMMARY. BOTH DAILY NEWSPAPERS CARRY REPORTS OUT OF GENEVA RECOUNTING THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA; DAILY MAIL FOCUSSES ON ALLEGED INCREASE IN GUERRILLA ACTIVITY ON EVE OF CONFERENCE AND TIMES DENOUNCED EDITORIALY "WHISPERING" FROM THE UNITED STATES THAT FRONTLINE STATES HAD AGREED IN ADVANCE TO SMITH PACKAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. TIMES EDITORIAL STATES THAT IF WHISPERINGS EMANATING FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND ALLEGING THAT FRONTLINE STATES ACCEPTED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS THE "KISSINGER PACKAGE DEAL", DO NOT CEASE, PACKAGE DEAL CAN BLOW UP EVEN BEFORE GENEVA. WHISPERS ARE NOT TRUE; FRONTLINE STATES "WILL NOT STOMACH POLITICAL SMEAR." FRONTLINE STATES "APPRECIATED HENRY KISSINGER'S CHARMING OF SMITH INTO CONCEDED BLACK MAJORITY RULE PUBLICLY, BUT THEY HAVE ALWAYS EXPRESSED SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ON THE REST OF WHATEVER THEY KNEW OF THE DEAL." FRONTLINE STATES

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COULD NOT HAVE ACCEPTED DETAILS OF AGREEMENT, BECAUSE THIS WOULD

BE IMMORAL SINCE THIS IS RESPONSIBILITY OF RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS.
"THE NATIONALIST LEADERS ARE THEREFORE AT FULLEST LIBERTY IN GENEVA TO DEAL WITH THE 'KISSINGER PACKAGE' IN ANY MANNER THEY SEE FIT IN THE INTEREST OF THEIR OWN COUNTRY."

2. DAILY MAIL AND TIMES ARTICLES PICK UP SAME THEMES ON CONFERENCE OPENING -- SHORTNESS OF OPENING SESSION; DEPTH OF SUSPICION BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE PARTICIPANTS; MUGABE/NKOMO WARNING

THAT THE DEMANDS THEY HAVE MADE MUST BE MET, IF CONFERENCE IS TO SUCCEED; AND REPORT THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELE WILL BE GOING TO GENEVA.

3. TIMES IS DOMINATED BY HEADLINE, "GUNPOINT TALKS -- FIGHTERS MOVE IN FOR THE KILL." ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT TALKS IN GENEVA OPENED AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF "UNPRECEDENTED INTENSIFICATION OF THE FREEDOM WAR BACK HOME." NATIONALISTS ARE QUOTED AS PREDICTING THAT THIS WEEKEND WILL BE ONE OF THE BLOODIEST SINCE 1972. ZIPA LEADER REX NHONGO IS CREDITED WITH SAYING THAT HE SEES NO CHANCE OF SUCCESS FOR THE TALKS AND HAS DECIDED THE ONLY ANSWER IS INTENSIFICATION OF THE WAR. ZIPA BELIEVES THAT "ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE EVIDENCE, THE SMITH REGIME WOULD COLLAPSE IN TWO YEARS IF THE ARMED STRUGGLE WAS KEPT UP, THEREFORE KISSINGER PLAN WAS INTENDED TO SALVAGE SMITH FROM TOTAL DEFEAT." EVIDENCE OF INTENSIFIED MILITARY ACTION GIVEN IS ATTACK ON RAIL LINE NEAR BOTSWANA BORDER, AND DESTRUCTION OF RHODESIAN FARMING TOWN OF NHAMAHOBOGO (150 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF SALISBURY) BY ROCKET FIRE. LOW

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